

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 H-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 /054 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P: RONEILL:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P: GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
NEA/PAB - MR. CONSTABLE (INFO)
NEA/PAB - MS. GRIFFIN (INFO)
NEA/PAB - MR. PECK (INFO)
NEA/INS - MR. KUX (INFO)

----- 085741

P 152152Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
AUGUST 15, 1975:

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON BANGLADESH?

A. THE LITTLE BIT OF INFORMATION THAT I HAVE SEEN IS
THE SAME AS WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN IN THE PRESS REPORTS. OUR
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EMBASSY HAS REPORTED THAT THE SITUATION AS OF THIS
MORNING AT LEAST APPEARS TO BE CALM IN DACCA AND OTHER
AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS THERE AND
PROPERTY APPEAR TO BE SAFE.

Q. HOW MANY ARE THERE?

A. ABOUT 820, AND OF THAT ABOUT 45 ARE AMERICAN OFFICIALS WITH THEIR DEPENDENTS. THAT COMES TO A TOTAL OF ABOUT A HUNDRED FOR THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL COMMUNITY, AND THE BALANCE ARE PRIVATE CITIZENS.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZE THE NEW REGIME IN BANGLADESH?

A. THE QUESTION REALLY HASN'T ARISEN. THE COUP ONLY OCCURRED LESS THAN 24 HOURS AGO, AND WE ARE TRYING TO FOLLOW THE SITUATION CLOSELY, BUT CERTAINLY THE PICTURE THERE IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. I DID SEE THAT THERE WAS AN OFFICIAL BROADCAST FROM BANGLADESH THAT APPEALED FOR RECOGNITION BY ALL PEACE-LOVING NATIONS, BUT WE HAVE HAD NO DIRECT REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION. THEREFORE, THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION HAS REALLY NOT ARISEN IN ANY PRACTICAL SENSE.

WE HAVE NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY ANY OFFICIALS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, BUT WHEN WE ARE APPROACHED, I THINK WE WILL BE PREPARED TO CONDUCT NORMAL BUSINESS WITH THEM.

ON BACKGROUND, YOU MAY RECALL THIS IS PRETTY MUCH THE PROCEDURE THAT WAS FOLLOWED IN NIGERIA WHEN THERE WAS A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT THERE. END BACKGROUND.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, RECOGNITION IS CONSTANT, NOTWITHSTANDING THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT, IS THAT TRUE?

A. LET ME LEAVE IT, IN WHAT I HAVE SAID, AS FAR AS THIS SITUATION IS CONCERNED. YOU KNOW, THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION HAS NOT ARISEN AS YET. THEY HAVE NOT APPROACHED US.

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Q. WAS THERE ANY CONTACT BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE NEW RULERS ALREADY?

A. NO, AS FAR AS I KNOW, WE HAVE HAD NO CONTACT.

Q. IS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT THIS NEW GROUP IS INTERESTED IN RE-ESTABLISHING A LINK WITH PAKISTAN?

A. I REALLY DO NOT KNOW.

Q. FROM OUR REPORTING? I MEAN, FROM THE EMBASSY.

A. I DO NOT THINK WE HAVE MADE THAT SORT OF ASSESSMENT
YET.

Q. WOULD YOU SAY THE NEW REGIME IS PRO-AMERICAN?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. WOULD YOU KEEP AN EYE ON THIS SITUATION AND LET US
KNOW WHEN THERE IS AN APPROACH BY THE NEW REGIME?

A. WE WILL DO OUR BEST.

Q. IS THAT NORMAL OPERATING PROCEDURE -- WE GET
APPROACHED BY THE OTHER COUNTRY, IS THAT IT?

A. ON BACKGROUND, AGAIN, I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO
SPECULATE THAT THAT MAY HAPPEN. IN OTHER SITUATIONS,
RECENTLY, AFTER A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME, A NORMAL
EXCHANGE RESUMES AND CONTINUES. END BACKGROUND.

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